

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0064

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, MILI, HU

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT FOR MILITARY ATTACHES ASSIGNED TO HUNGARY

REF: 75 STATE 210714, 75 BUDAPEST 2826

1. ON SEPTEMBER 12 EMBASSY FORWARDED TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER JANOS NAGY UNDER MCAULIFFE'S SIGNATURE A LETTER PROPOSING TO DO AWAY WITH AGREEMENT PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENT OF MILATTS AT AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN EMBASSIES RESPECTIVELY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT (STATE 210714) ACCOMPANYING LETTER WAS TEXT OF A DRAFT NOTE GIVING EFFECT TO THAT PROPOSAL. SEVERAL MONTHS ELAPSED; NO RESPONSE. ON DECEMBER 30 AMBASSADOR AGAIN WROTE TO NAGY POINTING OUT THAT EMBASSY HAD HOPED THAT, AFTER A SUITABLE PERIOD HAD PASSED PERMITTING HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO DELIBERATE ON PROPOSAL TO DO AWAY WITH AGREEMENT PROCEDURES, U.S. SIDE WOULD RECEIVE REPLY EITHER THROUGH THIS EMBASSY OR HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR REQUESTED NAGY TO FAVOR HIM WITH AN INFORMAL, ORAL REPLY DIRECTLY OR THROUGH ONE OF SUBORDINATE OFFICIALS AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. LATE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 7, AT REQUEST OF ACTING DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT V (LASZLO NAGY), DCM CALLED AT FOREIGN OFFICE TO RECEIVE FOLLOWING REPLY. GOH CONSIDRED THAT THERE WAS MORE FORMALITY INVOLVED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCEPTANCE OF MILITARY ATTACHES THAN OTHER EMBASSY

OFFICERS. FOR THAT REASON IT HAD FOLLOWED AGREEMENT PROCEDURE FOR YEARS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS U.S. ALTHOUGH HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES COULD SEE SOME ADVANTAGE TO DOING AWAY WITH THIS PROCEDURE WITH U.S., IT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT DOING SO UNILATERALLY. THEREFORE, GOH AUTHORITIES HAD DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE TO STUDY PROPOSAL FURTHER, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION WIDER IMPLICATIONS FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. SPEAKING PERSONALLY DCM SAID THAT IN U.S. PRACTICE AS WELL AS IN THAT OF MANY OTHER COUNTRIES AGREEMENT PROCEDURE WAS USED ONLY IN CASES OF AMBASSADORS. WHEN DCM WAS IN WASHINGTON LAST FALL HE HAD LOOKED INTO HISTORY OF HOW THIS PROCEDURE HAD DEVELOPED AND WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THAT IT WAS A HANGOVER FROM HORTHY REGIME. FOR THAT REASON AND IN INTEREST OF EFFICIENCY EMBASSY HAD THOUGHT GOH MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN ABOLISHING THIS TIME-CONSUMING AND BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURE. HOWEVER, AS AMBASSADOR MCAULIFFE HAD NOTED IN HIS LETTER OF DECEMBER 30, SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC TO MAINTAIN ANY ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM IT WISHES IS RECOGNIZED AND FULLY RESPECTED. DCM SAID U.S. WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO FINAL RESULT OF GOH REVIEW OF PROPOSAL IN ITS WIDER IMPLICATIONS.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL BET MONEY AND MARBLES TO CHALK THAT WE WILL NOT HEAR FURTHER FROM HUNGARIANS ON THIS PROPOSAL. FONOFF HAS AGAIN SHOWN ITS LACK OF FIREPOWER WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE TWO BURLIES OF GOH POWER STRUCTURE -- THE POLICE AND THE MILITARY. NAGY, DESPITE EFFORTS TO PUT BEST FACE POSSIBLE ON GOH RESPONSE, WAS OBVIOUSLY ILL AT EASE. IT IS INTERESTING THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NAGY, TO WHOM MCAULIFFE'S TWO LETTERS WERE WRITTEN, CHOSE TO EXIT BY SIDE DOOR, HANDING TASK OF REPLYING TO EMBASSY PROPOSAL TO ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES.
MCAULIFFE

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